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ACTION SY-05

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 ISO-00 AGR-05 SSO-00 USSS-00 CIAE-00
INR-07 NSAE-00 INRE-00 SS-15 SP-02 NSC-05 NSCE-00
PRS-01 SCCT-01 A-01 PER-01 SCA-01 AID-05 /056 W
----- 004203

O 021530Z MAY 75
FM AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1027
AMEMBASSY MONTEVIDEO IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY PANAMA IMMEDIATE

ARGENTINA PROJECT (S200000044)
U.S. DEPT. OF STATE, A/RPS/IPS
Margaret P. Grafeld, Director
☒ Release () Excise () Deny
Exemption(s): _____
Declassify: () In Part ☒ In Full
() Classify as () Extend as () Downgrade to
Date _____ Declassify on _____ Reason _____

[REDACTED] BUENOS AIRES 3032

DEPARTMENT FOR A/SY (KNAUF) A/SY/FO (ST. MARS)

PASS TO AMBASSADOR ROBERT HILL AND DEPT AGRICULTURE FOR
H.M. STEINMETZ APHIS

PANAMA FOR RSS

MONTEVIDEO FOR RSO (PASS TO MINISTER MONTLLOR)

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: ASEC, AR, PINS
SUBJECT: ERP PLANS TO KIDNAP AGRICULTURAL ATTACHE DR. CHASE (APHIS)

1. ON MAY 1, 1974 AT 21:00 HOURS RSOS BECKETT AND BOYLE
WERE SUMMONED TO THE OFFICE OF COMISARIO GENERAL LUIS
MARGARIDE. PRESENT WITH MARGARIDE WAS COMISARIO INSPECTOR
GATTEI CHIEF OF DIPLOMATIC SECTION GOA FEDERAL POLICE.

2. MARGARIDE STATED THAT ON 26 OF APRIL 1975 AN ATTEMPT
HAD BEEN MADE BY MEMBERS OF THE ERP TO ASSASSINATE A
FEDERAL POLICE COMISARIO IN BUENOS AIRES PROVINCE. THE
ATTEMPT FAILED. THREE MEMBERS OF THE ASSASSINATION TEAM
WERE KILLED DURING THE EXCHANGE OF GUN FIRE. ONE OF THE
AUTOMOBILES USED IN THIS ATTEMPT WAS CONFISCATED BY THE
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FEDERAL POLICE. DURING THE COURSE OF THE SEARCH OF THE AUTOMOBILE ON APRIL 30, 1075 DOCUMENTS WERE FOUND INDICATING THE ERP WAS PLANNING A TERRORIST ACT, PROBABLY KIDNAPPING AGAINST A MEMBER OF THE EMBASSY STAFF. THE DOCUMENTS TOOK THE FORM OF AN ERP INTELLIGENCE REPORT AND THE INFORMATION PROVIDED BY MARGARIDE IS SET FORTH (TRANSLATED) HEREWITH:

"COPY OF THE EXISTING RECORD:

DETAILS: ROBERT W. CHASE

RANK: AGRICULTURAL ATTACHE OF THE YANKEE EMBASSY IN ARGENTINA

ADDRESS: VICENTE LOPEZ Y PLANES 430

AUTOMOBILE: SIMILAR TO RENAULT 12 "BREAK"

(IMPORTED CAR)

PLATE: CD 1291

COLOR: RED

OTHER CARS: PARKED INSIDE HIS YARD A FALCON, NEVER SAW IT LEAVE. TO CHECK PLATE NUMBER AND COLOR.

VERIFICATIONS:

ACCORDING TO THE DETAILS OF THE VERIFICATIONS THAT SHOW IN THE RECORD THE EXACT HOUR OF DEPARTURE CAN BE FIXED BETWEEN 8-9:30 HOURS. IT IS FELT THE AREA DOES NOT MAKE POSSIBLE A LONG CHECK, THEREFORE, AS THE RECORD INDICATES, THE ONLY TIME HE WAS SEEN TO LEAVE WAS TO THE STATION, IT WOULD BE ADVISABLE TO CHECK THE AREA AND SEE WHICH ROUTE HE TAKES TO GO (I THINK) TO THE YANKEE EMBASSY. IF THE STATION IS ACASSUSO IT IS EVIDENT HE TRAVELS LIBERTADOR, AND HE COULD BE WATCHED FROM A BAR, WHICH WOULD PERMIT A LONGER PERIOD OF OBSERVATION. OF COURSE THIS ASSUMES THAT HIS DEPARTURE AND ROUTE ARE MORE OR LESS ROUTINE, BUT IN WHATEVER MANNER, IT WOULD BE CONVENIENT TO CHECK FOR A COUPLE OF DAYS. IF WE DO NOT DO IT LIKE THIS, WE CAN ARRANGE FOR FOUR COMPANIONS (OR 5, IF POSSIBLE) TO PASS DURING SEVERAL DAYS IN FRONT OF HIS HOUSE, ALTERNATING EVERY 5 OR 10 MINUTES - (FOR EXAMPLE 8:10, 8:20, 8:30, ETC. AND AFTER COMPLETING THE SERIES, REPEATING IT IN THE REVERSE DIRECTION), WHICH WOULD PERMIT US, IN CASE THERE ARE 4 TO GO BY THE HOUSE 8 TIMES COVERING MORE THAN AN HOUR, IF WE DO IT EVERY 10 MINUTES.

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FEB. 13: 8:10 HRS. STILL AT HOME.
FEB. 14: 8:15 HRS. LEFT IN CAR
CD 1291 ENROUTE TO A STATION (WHICH?) WENT ALONE
FEB. 18: 8:45 HRS. STILL HAD NOT LEFT-DAY BEFORE ALSO.
MARCH 4: 9:30 HRS. CAR CD 1291 STILL THERE.
MARCH 5: 8:30 HR. CAR NOT THERE.
MARCH 6: 8:50 HRS. CAR PARKED OUTSIDE.

3. MARGARIDE WAS ADVISED BY BOTH RSOS THAT CHASE HAD DEPARTED HIS RESIDENCE AND WAS RESIDING IN TEMPORARY QUARTERS IN PREPARATION FOR A MOVE TO MONTEVIDEO. MARGARIDE STATED THAT IN HIS OPINION AS CHIEF OF THE FEDERAL POLICE CHASE SHOULD NOT RETURN TO ARGENTINA IN AN ATTEMPT TO CARRY OUT HIS WORK AS A VETERINARIAN. HE FURTHER ADVISED THAT IF CHASE WAS TO RESIDE IN URUGUAY HE SHOULD BE EXTREMELY CAREFUL SINCE A COALITION EXISTED BETWEEN TERRORIST ELEMENTS IN ARGENTINA AND THOSE IN URUGUAY AND THAT THE TERRORIST ACT PLANNED AGAINST CHASE COULD BE AS EASILY CARRIED OUT IN MONTEVIDEO AS IN BUENOS AIRES. MARGARIDE STATED IN HIS OPINION THE ERP HAD TARGETED CHASE AT THE MEAT PACKING COMPANIES DURING THE COURSE OF CHASE'S INSPECTIONS. MARGARIDE IMMEDIATELY MADE AVAILABLE PLAIN CLOTHES FEDERAL POLICE FOR THE PROTECTION OF CHASE AND HIS FAMILY DURING THE REMAINDER OF HIS TIME IN B.A.

4. ACTION BY RSO'S: CHARGE D' AFFAIRES WILLIAM BEAL WAS INFORMED OF THE PENDING THREAT AGAINST THE MEMBER OF THE EMBASSY STAFF. CHASE WAS IMMEDIATELY CONTACTED AND THE INFORMATION PROVIDED BY MARGARIDE WAS RELATED TO HIM. IN ADDITION, HE WAS ADVISED TO CURTAIL HIS MOVEMENTS, INFORMED OF THE FEDERAL POLICE BODYGUARDS BEING PROVIDED AND INTRODUCED TO A MEMBER OF THE BODYGUARD TEAM FOR RECOGNITION PURPOSES. CHASE ADVISED THAT HIS ARRANGEMENTS FOR DEPARTURE FROM ARGENTINA WERE COMPLETE AND THAT EXCEPT FOR FINAL ACCOMPANYING BAGGAGE PACKING HE AND HIS FAMILY COULD DEPART ARGENTINA IMMEDIATELY. CHASE WILL DEPART ARGENTINA FOR URUGUAY MAY 3, 1975.

5. RECOMMENDATION OF WATCH COMMITTEE: CHASE SHOULD NOT RETURN TO ARGENTINA ON A REGULAR BASIS. MEAT INSPECTIONS IN ARGENTINA SHOULD BE HANDLED FROM WASHINGTON ON THE SAME RANDOM BASIS AS IN CURRENT OPERATIONS. IT WOULD BE PREFERABLE THAT

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THE SAME INDIVIDUAL NOT MAKE ALL OF THE TRIPS.
IT IS THE OPINION OF THE WATCH COMMITTEE THAT THE
COALITION BETWEEN THE ERP AND THE TUPAMAROS IS OPERATIONAL
PRIMARILY IN ARGENTINA, BUT THE COMMITTEE DEFERS
TO THE AMERICAN EMBASSY IN MONTEVIDEO FOR THEIR EVALUATION
AND ANY THREAT THAT COULD EXIST IN THAT COUNTRY
WITH RESPECT TO CHASE. IT SHOULD BE NOTED THAT CHASE
BECAUSE OF HIS EXTENSIVE TRAVEL SCHEDULE TO VARIOUS COUNTRIES
IN SOUTH AMERICA WOULD SPEND APPROXIMATELY 20 PERCENT OF HIS TIME
IN MONTEVIDEO.
BEAL

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